

# AVIATION

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XVII

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NUMBER  
7

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FIRST HELICOPTER TO FLY A CIRCULAR KILOMETER  
PROGRESS OF THE ROUND THE WORLD FLIGHTS

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# AVIATION

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### Civil Transport Planes and Military Bombers

THE pertinent and personal question of whether a plane which is suitable for the transportation of passengers can be converted into a military bomber was the subject of a recent speech made by Mr. Laurent Eyan, the French Vice Secretary of Aeronautics, before the Aero Club of France. The salient passages of the speech are as follows:

Commercial aviation and military aviation, since the separation of 1918, have been following along different lines of development. Actually we run only make a poor bomber out of a civil transport plane and vice versa. In military aviation one must climb very high and fast and the flying speed must also be great. The plane must have a ceiling of eight or nine thousand meters, the cruising speed must be at least 250 kilometers per hour. Until now to the contrary, high land consumption and power are of no importance. The higher the shorter life of the motor is unimportant. It is a matter for the mastery of the air.

In civil aviation there is a constant search for economy, each year the ceiling becomes lower, it will probably be found at 5,000 meters which permits the plane to pass over the mountain peaks at Europe. Efforts are also made to get the maximum power out of the fuel used, and finally, the commercial ship is furnished with cruising speeds of 150 kilometers per hour.

The French command of our fleet at this time has about more than 200 ships, some working for the coast, others carrying passengers and freight. It also has nearly two hundred patrol, hardy and experienced pilots.

To make these machines and pilots return to the military role would be an expenditure of money. If we should break out to the front countries of Europe and in Africa, would it then be necessary for us to abandon the position which we gained by our communications with the North of Africa and with Central Europe?

Obviously no. The communications between France and Northern Africa and between France, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Roumania would go on as at present. They would be of far greater use to us and the small benefit which we could derive from the use of commercial planes transformed into war military planes would not make up for the great loss which we would inevitably suffer from having suddenly discontinued our commercial air routes to Northern Africa and Central Europe.

### From Calcutta to Paris

THE distance from Paris to Calcutta is some 6,000 miles along the line which was followed this year by the Americans, the French and the Argentine fliers, while the rest of the British was somewhat longer. Although there was no way a race between the two sides, yet the French was trying to establish a new record to Japan, and the

Americans and Argentines were trying to make up for lost time so they were all doing their best to make speed. A study of the time taken by the various participants in this series of such expeditions. The fastest time was twelve days, made by Captain d'OEy in a Blériot plane. Major Zappa, the Argentine, took sixteen days in his Fokker. The Americans in the Douglas planes took fourteen days. The Frenchmen in their Vickers machines were considerably delayed by motor trouble and took fifty-two days.

The Frenchman and the Argentine started out untired by previous days of hard flying, their machines were new and in perfect condition and both of them had a cruising speed of well over 100 m.p.h. with plenty of reserve power. The Americans had already flown almost half way around the world, their equipment and themselves had stood the strains of the change from Arctic to Tropic conditions, they were flying in formation, they gave three times the opportunity for delay and trouble. Furthermore, they were going against the prevailing winds in machines that carried heavy loads and cruised at only 75 m.p.h. The motors on all the planes were changed at Karachi, the work being done mostly by the Americans themselves and taking up three days. The desire of the Turks to support the machines lost the flier another day. In view of all this the performance of the men who composed the American squadron is extraordinary almost beyond belief. Interestingly, the Americans made the last run from Tokyo to Paris, but had a competitor in London, for, the Frenchman was using reserve equipment after his accident in Shanghai.

### Lack of Ideas

SCATTERED FROM Maine to California and from Florida to Oregon are the Old Time Aviators, men who have been in the commercial flying game for years, and know there is nothing in it, and who none the less cannot break away from it. They receive dreams of the quick growth of aviation has turned to the dull gray of the far distance. Propose to them a new idea and they will say: "Oh, I tried that in 1918, it won't work." When pressed for new ideas, they admit that they need to have them but they are not bothered by them any more. They have tried all paths and all paths have failed out in the confusion of failure.

It is peculiar to speak of an aviator who has no new scheme which will bring about the immediate era of commercial aviation, but the truth is that all the old timers who had ideas have either been exhausted or have modified their enthusiasm for ideas. The elimination of 1918 learned schemes and hopeless attempts is a very healthy, but there is grave danger that many will not realize that greater knowledge, new equipment and changed conditions will sometime make ideas that have been repudiated in the past become possible in the future. Commercial aviation is a cat, it will take good judgment and initiative to steer it out.

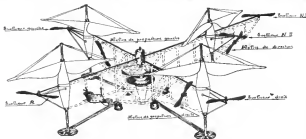


# First Helicopter to Fly a Circular Kilometer

Meets Test Imposed by French Air Service

We are indebted to *L'Aéronautique* for the following account by *Alfred Fournier*, pilot and inventor of the French helicopter which was accepted by the French government after having completed a circular kilometer. The machine was described in detail in our issue of April 9, 1923—Editor.

The apparatus which has permitted me to make the first circular kilometer is a helicopter in the sense with which I made the first fixed point flight of five minutes in May, 1923, and which has since been the subject of several modifications to adapt it to forward flight and to improve its stability in a wind.



Details of Oehmichen Helicopter which has been accepted by the French Air Service

It consists of four principal propellers, a system of five "control" or stabilizer propellers whose diameters are, respectively, 1 m. 45 for the three longitudinal controls, and 1 m. 55 for the two transverse controls. Two propulsion propellers with fixed pitch and a diameter of 1 m. 40 are driven by belt. These are placed on either side of the central cage and about half way out in the frame, which support the lifting screw. They are, however, considerably below the lifting screw.

To the landing system I have added a double sled placed in front for the purpose of reducing the shock of landing on the front part of the machine, as such shocks are increased by the full weight of the helicopter.

The apparatus weighs approximately 1000 kg. in running order. The main propellers turn at 245 r.p.m. and the land is approximately 21 kg. in the upper motor.

I consider this apparatus simple as an experimental job, built in brief itself much to alterations, especially as regards the stabilizing and propulsion apparatus is concerned. It is now a flying laboratory than a practical aviation apparatus.

I have gathered, during the course of my methods experimenting and nearly 450 flights, a series of invaluable data, especially with reference to cross winds, the influence of the ground and that of forward motion.

The apparatus is actually very maneuverable. Turns are easily accomplished, but there is noticed sometimes, especially during the course of flights in hazy weather, a certain sluggishness in turning, which indicates the necessity for even more powerful controls. This only applies for changes of direction of from 90 to 180 deg., the turns of 45 deg. are accomplished on the slightest movement of the controls.

I have therefore particularly studied the question of turns and since the month of October, I have made about fifty circular flights of an average length of from 600 to 700 m. The precision of the landings has always been considerable. During the course of the trial, the principal and probably the only difficulties came from the motor, whose average

rotation produced accidents of all kinds. Besides, when approaching due to bad weather, I found on often during the course of a flight to suddenly lose height and to touch the ground with one or more of the landing skids, which disqualified me from counting the circuits made as a complete flight.

I was able during the course of the winter to make several important circuits, one of 1500 m. landing only once on the rear skid, but I had never succeeded in making the circular kilometer without stopping or touching.

On May 4, at 7:38 p. m., in the presence of Mr. Chablin, official delegate of the Service Technique de l'Aéronautique, I made a trial flight in a closed circuit. Though the atmosphere was calm a few gusts still lagged and gave a little motion. In spite of this I brought the apparatus back to the starting point of the prepared circuit, which was a triangular course of 1 km. marked out by stakes. The apparatus, oscillating between one and three meters, flew the full two miles of the triangle correctly but the third corner side was widely passed by, so as at that time the machine showed a certain sluggishness in turning. This brought me on a series of deep dives and small pushes, seeing which I passed the skids which showed me to make my corner rapidly and go on the course again.

April 28, 1924

The last leg of the triangle was flown very rapidly at an altitude of one or two meters and with a slight tendency to the left. The landing point, which was rather hard to see through the mass of bushes and trees, was passed and reached by the use of my eyes, one of whom, remaining alone in front of the machine, showed me with outstretched arms the position I was to take and a few seconds later I was at the apparatus down a little less than 2 m. from the point of departure.

The apparatus has now accumulated its record and fulfilled nearly the conditions imposed by the Service Technique de l'Aéronautique, to whom it is destined. I expect to see it in a few days which I will look back.

The apparatus which will follow will attack the problem of security, that is, in descent with the motor stopped, and will have the benefit of the previous experience.

## National Air Policy Suggestions

Below are some of the suggestions received for a national air policy.

"I think the first step in a National Air Program is the establishment of an air 'maximacy' in our government. This maximacy should be the government's control of all things aeronautical, insofar as the government is concerned. Competent officials at the head of such a department would trace a new program of strength development; a nation equipped with the development of a national air policy in the present world, in fact, look out for civilian interests in legislative discussion, which should be changed with rendering complete and accurate expense data; appointment of competent air officers to head different air units, one government agency for the government; intelligent development and development; the stimulation of development; more facilities and more money for Air Mail development; the establishment of a National Aeronautics System; the efficient maintenance of pumps, and administration of air law; a greater realization of the security of international cooperation in air action."

"The rising level of the hour seems to be landing lists, Government would at least not free. Every city of less than 100,000 or more should have one. When every town has been listed the service officials have life records of being listed from one new machine to another. I have about quit long for that one issue."

"There are other important needs such as quantity production of cheaper ships of intermediate parts, to be manufactured and assembled, to be built by purchase. The saving effected in transportation charges and labor should easily amount to one half the total cost and a owner would have considerably more about his ship. But on the whole there is nothing needed like the landing lists, life of them, free, except for longer space. The rest will follow as a natural result and I know of no way of creating a more efficient permanent or cheaper officials service upon which the nation as a whole in time of war or that would be of more value in time of peace."

"What this country needs most is less differences of opinion and a shoulder to shoulder solidarity of flying interests. I told the air policy committee that if the N.A.A. would take the leadership in Washington, and if the Government would make it accomplished. As it is there is nothing long-drawn and endless in this country is slowly dying. The point suggested one good job (and) we have some opportunities to push them there in little ways."

"We don't yet include in the National Air Policy a strong statement that we should have an independent Air Force. I have been told that is what will eventually come to us by the way of being the frightened process and come out for it."

"The Army and Navy are doing just as little for aviation as they can. They think of it as being of use to their other interests and as a new armed force that can not independently exist."

"Every country is thinking of aerial defense and offense, coming more and more to the idea of controlling the air."

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air forces. Let us have a civilian head by all means but let him be placed at the head of a separate department.

"The other point in your suggested National Air Policy would all be strengthened thereby."

## American World Flight

On Aug. 5 Lieutenant Smith and Nelson, the remaining American fliers, received their flight reaching Reykjavik, Iceland, a distance of 150 mi. in 4 hr. 56 min. The weather was clear but they encountered strong head winds. The next stop of the aviators was supposed to be Annabek, Greenland, but due to ice they the Danish steamer *Grindsted*. Rank has been unable to reach the harbor with the necessary stores of food and oil. The winter off the Greenland coast is usually negotiable until September, but conditions this summer are the worst in twenty years and the Navy may have to withdraw their patrols. There seems to be no other harbor



Capt. Charles Nungesser, the famous French Ace. A photo taken by the publisher of AVIATION

short of Iceland which is too far to be made in a single flight. Further reports show that Lieutenant Wad's ship was so badly damaged that it had to be abandoned. However a new Danish plane is being flown in from Berlin, and the Danish and American will fly across the United States with his companions.

## End of British World Flight

For so thick that the fliers could not see the end at three weeks proved the wisdom of Major Mervin and his companions. Flying Officer Phibbs and Lieut. Colonel Brooks. After narrowly missing Seattle, Wash., which is an hour's flight, the fliers decided to land. As a high sea was running the wing tip floats were damaged and it was only with the greatest difficulty that the aviators tried to alight which was sighted when the fog lifted for a few moments.

## Argentine World Flight

Major Pedro Zamora and his mechanic Felipe Bellone reached Calcutta on Aug. 8. The machine being used by the Argentinians is somewhat similar to the Fokker C-4 which was described in our issue of March 21, 1924, except that it is fitted with the 150 hp. Napier Lane motor. The flight is backed by the Argentine military authorities. A new plane fitted with pistons will be used for the flight across the Pacific but when the first machine crosses the Pacific again we will mention. A special "society" ship will be used for the Atlantic flight.

## Wants Japanese World Flight

As a gesture of protest against the American Exclusion act a Japanese octopusman has given 100,000 yen (\$20,000) to the Army Aviation Service, requesting that it be used in promoting a round-the-world flight by Japanese aviators, according to a Tokyo dispatch.











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## A Suggested National Air Policy

*That a National Aviation Policy is needed by the United States is obvious. To get such a policy in concrete form AVIATION requested several thoughtful friends of aeronautical progress to make suggestive and constructive recommendations. Some of them are given below and will be printed each week with additions, omissions and such other changes as appear to be helpful toward the formulation of a sound national air policy. Readers of AVIATION and others can render no greater service to the cause of aeronautical progress than contributing their comments and suggestions.*

### GOVERNMENTAL.

A confiding program of aircraft development both governmental and commercial, A. confidant, charged with championing a national air policy, is needed in the Government. Aircraft committees in the House and Senate to hold aircraft hearings where civilians as well as government officials can express their opinions.

A detailed aircraft budget for all Governmental Departments, and an annual statement of all expenditures. An experienced staff of flying officers at the head of all governmental air defense services. Coordination of all procurement and experimental aircraft work of the government under one agency. Limitation of government manufacture to repair of aircraft and specialized work that cannot be done by private firms.

The elimination of the duplication of aerial functions and facilities by government departments. A country wide Air Mail system of trunk lines connecting the principal cities of the country. Establishment of a National Airway System through cooperation of the Federal Government with States and Cities.

A national aircraft law that will regulate aviation, administered by practical pilots and experienced aeronautical engineers.

Membership of the United States in the International Convention for Air Navigation.

### COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT OPERATION.

Creation of commercial air lines by private enterprise or government subsidy.

Encouragement of participation by private companies in aircraft races and competitions.

Encouragement of the training of pilots by civilian schools.

Creating an Export Air Corps among flying men all over the country by frequent gatherings at aviation meets.

### INDUSTRIAL AIRCRAFT CONSTRUCTION.

Recognition that a sound aeronautical industry is a prime necessity of our National Defense.

An active industrial association that will coordinate the aircraft industry and defend it from attack.

Encouragement of the designing of new types of aircraft by manufacturers by allowing them to retain their proprietary rights.

Concentration of manufacturing lines on specialized types of army and navy aircraft.

Encouragement of research by contractors, universities and other agencies as well as by the government.

Encouragement of an annual design competition for commercial aircraft.

### CIVILIAN.

A national aeronautical organization composed of public spirited citizens that will take a strong position of leadership on national aeronautical policy.

An Aerial Aviation Week during which the country will think of aerial progress.

The formation of local aero clubs by them for the purpose of stimulating flying in all localities.

Encouraging the public to fly and patronize the air mail and transport facilities.



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